

ARPTalk (Extra7)

March 12, 2010

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EXTRA!

ERSKINE COLLEGE FILES RESTRAINING ORDER AGAINST THE ARP CHURCH

The bold headlines in the Greenville and Greenwood newspapers as well as the *Aquila Report* have detailed how Mr. Scott Mitchell, the former Chairman of the Erskine College and Seminary Board and current member of the interim Board appointed by the General Synod, has filed a restraining order against the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. The restraining order that Mr. Mitchell has filed in the name of/on behalf of Erskine College and Seminary is 52 pages in length. The Editor will be happy to send you a copy of the full text of the restraining order upon request or you may find it at the following site: <http://www.indexjournal.com/lawsuit/lawsuit.html>. The following excerpts from Mr. Mitchell's argument are to be noted:

For a Third Cause of Action (Civil Conspiracy)

17. Erskine College incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs and allegations of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

18. The General Synod through its moderator, Rev. Dr. Richard de Witt and its "Commission on Erskine College and Seminary," chaired by Mr. George Robinson, and composed of Rev. Bill Marsh, Rev. Paul Mulner, Mr. Gordon Query, Rev. Roger Wiles, Ken Wingate, and Mr. Steve Maye combined for the purpose of injuring Erskine [Editor's emphasis].
19. The General Synod, through its agents and representatives, intended to injure Erskine and damage its mission [Editor's emphasis] by removing its current Board of Trustees and replacing it with a new slate of Trustees. Further, they intended Erskine to lose its academic independence, to lose its standing and accreditation [Editor's emphasis] to create a perception of instability which would discourage and inhibit the effectiveness of the ongoing College presidential search committee, and to allow them to control the presidential search process for their own gain.
20. The conspiracy by the General Synod among its agents and representatives including but not limited to the above named individuals caused special damage to Erskine [Editor's emphasis].

Consider the following:

- 1. Mr. Mitchell is an active elder serving an ARP Church within the bounds of the Tennessee-Alabama Presbytery. Mr. Mitchell has taken vows of submission to the authority of the courts of the ARP Church. Is his action showing faithful submission to these governing authorities? Has he followed proper ecclesiastical procedures? For instance an appeal to the court of the ARP Synod? Has he exhausted the appropriate means of confrontation within the ARP Church? Why has he taken such a drastic and harmful action toward his Church and his alma mater? Does he not trust his brothers with whom he serves in the name of Christ?**
- 2. How can an individual file a civil suit/restraining order in the name of Erskine College and Seminary? Has the former Board convened and granted him permission to do so? Was this a decision of the former Executive Committee to give Mr. Mitchell permission to file a suit against his Church? Did Mr. Mitchell act at the behest of Drs. Ruble, Alston, and Gaston? Quite simply, by what authority has Mr. Mitchell acted?**

Below you will find a document that the Editor has drafted for public witness, but in/for an unofficial capacity. The Editor invites all faculty members at Erskine College and Seminary (inclusive of both ARPs and non-ARPs), all ministers and elders in the ARP Church, and other friends of the ARP Church who wish to show their support for the ARP Church by asking that their names be attached to the

document below. This is merely a show of support for the integrity of the Church of Jesus Christ. The Editor will record the names of those who request by e-mail asking that their names be attached. The next *ARPTalk* will re-post the document with names attached.

Is this a document on which you can attach your name?

Whereas Erskine College and Erskine Theological Seminary are institutions owned by the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, governed by Trustees appointed by General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, and nurtured by the love and sacrificial giving of Associate Reformed Presbyterians since 1837/39; and

Whereas the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, in a called meeting at Bonclarken on March 2-3, 2010 did appoint an interim Board of Trustees to exercise oversight for Erskine College and Erskine Theological Seminary; and

Whereas all actions in this regard passed by substantial voting majorities; and

Whereas it is a fundamental principle of Presbyterian faith and practice that ministers, elders, deacons, and church members pursue the unity, peace, purity, and prosperity of the church by submitting to the will of the brethren; and

Whereas the Scripture forbids Christians taking church disputes before the civil magistrate (I Corinthians 6.1-7); and

Whereas former Chairman of the Board, Mr. Scott Mitchell, has disregarded the deliberations of the highest court in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and further disturbed the unity, peace, purity, and prosperity of the church by bring suit against the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church;

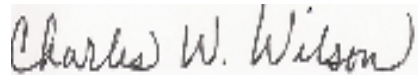
Therefore be it resolved that we, the undersigned, express our grief that Mr. Mitchell has violated biblical principles forbidding lawsuits against other Christians, undermined the legitimate authority of the highest court in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, and created a scandal before the watching world.

Furthermore, we call upon Mr. Mitchell to acknowledge his error and withdraw his action against the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

We whose names appear below have agreed to have our names attached in support of this document.

Once again, is this a document to which you can attach your name? The Editor's personal e-mail is wilson6114@bellshout.net. If you are willing to have your name attached to this document, send me an e-mail at my e-mail address. The next *ARPTalk* will re-post this resolution with name.

These are my thoughts,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles W. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a light gray rectangular box.

Charles W. Wilson